



## COWPENS CORRAL

A publication for friends and family of USS COWPENS (CG 63)

COWPENS CARELINE 243-3322

<http://www.cowpens.navy.mil>

### Cowpens Sailors spread Holiday Cheer at Misono Childrens Home

#### Special Points of Interest

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Every year the men and women of the USS Cowpens set out for the Misono Children's Home, armed with smiles, caring hearts, and gifts from the command. This year 27 Sailors and family members took part in that tradition on December 17th.

Arriving just after nine in the morning, Sailors were greeted by children of all ages, who watched in wonder as a whole bus load of presents was unloaded before their very eyes. After staging gifts from the command, Sailors soon found themselves surrounded by smiling faces, as kids leaped at the chance to create Christmas cards, bend pipe cleaners into reindeer, or catch the occasional piggy back ride around the activity room. "Being with these kids this time of year is a mutually satisfying

feeling for both of us", said FC3(SW) Silvers with one of the many children using him as a jungle gym.

For the older kids housed at the home, a basketball game, and a couple of soccer balls soon brought hours of entertainment to everyone involved.

Lunch provided a chance for both Sailors and the Children a to recharge their batteries and regroup. Afterwards, children were assembled by age groups ranging from 1 to 17. As the kids quietly took their places every child's eyes suddenly brightened as none other than Santa himself took center stage



*Santa Claus hands a present to one of the many children sponsored this year at Misono Childrens Home.*

to present each one with a present from the command. As names were called, some came running, while others simply walked. Some needed encouragement, but all clung tight to the presents presented them.

"For me, having the opportunity to spend time with the kids is better than any gift I can get, moments like these are priceless," said HM2(SW) Santos.

*(Article continued on page 9)*



## News from your Ombudsman



As we move into the New Year, we're beset by a need to better ourselves. We swear

to be healthier, to finish lofty goals, break bad habits and develop good ones. Beneath it all, however, is an underlying understanding or fear or anxiety: We make these resolutions and we will not keep them. We are failures before we even begin and this is depressing.

How do we combat this New Year despair? Instead of unrealistic goals, set resolutions you can meet. Instead of saying you'll run 5 miles everyday, aim to run at least twice a week. Start small, and give yourself room to work your way up. Encourage a friend to take a similar goal so you can keep each other accountable. Try to find ways to make your resolutions fun and enjoyable, so you'll continue to want to do them.

The biggest part of any goal, however, is your will to do it. This doesn't mean some mystical power (we're not talking about the Force), but a mixture of choice and personal responsibility. The decision part is the easier portion to understand. Obviously, you must choose to do something before you will actually do it. But personal responsibility?

Personal responsibility is a concept that's been stressed recently, though it seems to take a backseat to watching your shipmates' back. Yes, we need to be watching out for each other, but it seems that a few people have forgotten what it means to make

the right decision themselves. The Navy is not your mother and the command is not your nanny. It's your decision to get back into shape, and it's your decision to not drink and drive. It's even your decision to not speed, play your music loudly, eat breakfast, or anything. It all goes back to you and your choices. This is why personal responsibility is key to your New Year resolutions. You have a responsibility to the command and the Navy, whether you're active duty or a family member, to follow the rules and guidelines set by these authority figures. You have a responsibility to your country to be a good ambassador as an example for other foreigners and to the Japanese. Your choices affect the policies in effect, and your sense of responsibility will mold your choices.

This New Year decide to be responsible, whether you want to get into shape, stop a bad habit, or pick up a new one. You are the deciding factor in your life.

**By: Mrs. Michalla Stalder**

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## Children's Christmas Party 2006

Smiles, laughter, fun, and games marked this years Children's Christmas party held on December 16th. Sponsored by the First Class Petty Officers Association (FCPOA), the party offered children the chance to create a few Christmas cards, break in a play ground, and even the chance to make a new friend or two.

Kicking off at 1400, children of the USS Cowpens, were greeted by the FCPOA's President, YN1(SW) Williams, who only asked one thing of the children, "just have fun." With plenty of cookies, cake, and ice cream, that's just what they did. Children took part in musical chairs, went ballistic on large sheets of bubble wrap, and spent a great deal of time chasing balloons.

The party reached it's climax with a special visit from Santa Claus, who in the midst of the holiday season presented a gift to every child in attendance.

A heart felt thank-you goes out to all the First Class Petty Officers involved in this years Children's Christmas Party.

**By: CTR1(SW/AW) Taylor**



## Captain's Corner

Greetings Family and Friends of COWPENS,

As I write this the Thundering Herd is enjoying a bit of standdown and for those that aren't on well-deserved leave, we are busy doing the type of maintenance that we can only accomplish in port. And as this year comes to a close it's natural to reflect on an exceptional year. From the great port visits in amazing places to large exercises like Valiant Shield and Annualetx, this awesome crew has risen to every challenge and proudly upheld their reputation as the best in FDNF. We are now looking forward to what is in store for us in 2007 and to another great year that will feature more exciting underway periods and more amazing port visits. This

great crew continues set the standard in every area and I thank them for all of their efforts as well as our family and friends for your support throughout this past year.

All the best and Happy New Year!

Best Regards,  
Captain Terry Mosher, USN  
Commanding Officer



## Executive Officer

Happy New Year from Yokosuka. The New Year is such a great time to look back on successes and look forward to new



challenges. This New Year is certainly no different. COWPENS had an amazing 2006. The crew performed time and time again, making COWPENS the go-to Cruiser in the Battle Force Seventh Fleet. 2007 will no doubt prove to be much more of the same.

January will find the Mighty-Moo wrapping up a much needed deep maintenance period and moving on down the trail to the upcoming summer operational schedule. We have enjoyed a great deal of time with friends and family over the last

six weeks and look forward to the remaining time together. January will also give us one last chance to see the sights and sounds of Japan sponsored by COWPENS own Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Group. This month also marks the beginning of a six week period of intense athletic competition during the COWPENS Cup. Teams will be fielded from each of the ship's departments, the Wardroom, and the Chief Petty Officer's Mess. Events range from Volleyball to Dodgeball and everything in between. To all of our Sailors, their families, and friends whom have joined the COWPENS recently, we welcome you to the Thundering Herd. Your love and support for your Sailor is unprecedented and is one of the main reasons our Navy is the strongest afloat today. Happy New Year to you and yours, and here's to a safe and prosperous 2007. Cheers.

LCDR W.K. Shafley III  
Executive Officer

## Welcome Aboard

LT David Bradley  
LTJG Terence Fitzgibbons  
HMC Montgo Michael  
OS2 Darrius Williams  
ET3 Christopher Hodges  
GSMFN Irais Estrada  
FCSN Andrew Chau

## Happy Trails...

LTJG Douglas Jenkins  
LTJG Stephanie Hayes  
BM1 Christopher Burgart  
PS1 Charles Hines  
CTT2 Jennifer Paul  
CTT2 Ryan Clark  
IT2 Larry Rigdon  
GM2 Joshua Sims  
GSE2 Fai Wong  
DC3 Thomas McMullen  
GSM3 Michael Miller  
BM3 Toni Perez

## Congratulations . . .

### Promotions

LTJG Nicholas D. Elliott

### Reenlistment

HMCS(SW) Romarico Leyson  
CTRC(SW) Jonathan S. Coss  
YN1(SW) Gregory J. Cazemier  
SK1(SW/AW) Sean Mahoney  
FC1(SW) Bronson R. Ryan

### New Births to the Family of . . .

CS1(SW) Paulo  
STG1 Ryan L. Hite  
FC2(SW) Ernest A. Dodd  
DC2 Travis R. Baxley



## Command Master Chief

Congratulations to all of our newly advanced Petty Officers and to those of you that chose to continue your naval career. Your hard work, the hard



work of our career counselors and first class mess has paid off. As a result of everyone's effort, the command enjoyed an outstanding advancement cycle, averaging above the Navy's promotion average for most ratings. It is obvious that our command truly excels at improving quality of service and retaining our most important resources—SAILORS.

As memories of this year start to slip away you might want to begin the New Year by thinking about what you want to do this new year and what do you need to get there. In the New Year, most people make resolutions and by February have

forgotten them. If you truly want something, plan on working hard for it and set goals to achieve it. Here are a few goal-setting tips to get you started.

1. Don't try everything at once and make sure it is something you can control. You will have better luck in fulfilling one or two realistic goals than you will with a list of fifty. You can always add new resolutions to your list, one thing at a time.

2. Word it carefully and in a way that can be measured. Let's say your resolution is to be promoted. Try not to think of it as "This year I am going to be promoted." Decide what it is going to take to be promoted a focus on the steps involved. Studying for advancement once a week or completing a course once a month are items that you can focus on and are measurable.

3. Make a plan with a timeline. Once you know what your resolution is, try to break it down and think about how long you need

to complete each step. Nobody accomplishes anything of significance by trying to do it all at once. This doesn't have to be a complicated plan; just brainstorm enough to give yourself a place to start.

4. Write it down. Write down your resolution and plan of action. Stick it up on the fridge, in your locker, wherever you know you'll see it. This way you'll have a constant reminder of your resolution.

In closing, remember that just a few key decisions or indecisions in life determine where you will end up. Enjoy your time in USS COWPENS and remember that each of you is what makes this command and OUR NAVY great. Keep Charging...

Warm Regards,

Richard T. Hatton  
CMDM(SW/AW)  
CMC Mighty Moo!



## Command Chaplain

December is traditionally a time that people demonstrate the spirit of giving. USS *Cowpens* has definitely lead the way! I would like to thank every person who donated a gift to the children at Misono Children's Home. As I expected, soliciting gifts was as simple as announcing the need to the crew. As you read on the first page, all who participated were touched immensely.

For Christians, Christmas is one of the most important holidays of the year. What is your family tradition? Have you looked at the real reason for the season? Maybe

being stationed overseas has disrupted family traditions. Why not take the opportunity to create new traditions and help others out in the process? You can also create new traditions while you are here and bring them back with you to the States.

Most importantly, take time to reflect. As the world chases Wii's and PS3's from one shopping center to the next, be honest with yourself - have you missed it? I'm thankful that my experience on *Cowpens* says most have not, but we should always reflect on the direction of our lives and adjust as necessary. After all, the world is changed one person at a time.

In closing, this will be the last my last article in *The Cowpens Corral*. As I depart, I would like to thank everyone for the incredible support. I have never had to beg for help on a COMREL or any other project. The Thundering Herd is the finest crew in the Navy serving in the best ship in the Fleet. I'm proud to have been a small part.

Blessings,

LT Jeff Jenkins  
Command Chaplain  
USS COWPENS (CG 63)

## Cowpens Sailors of the Year



### USS Cowpens Senior Sailor of the Year

**Name:** Eddie J. Williams, Jr

**Home Town:** Warren, Ohio

**Naval Service:** 17 years

**What is your philosophy on life and why:** No matter what the circumstance or situation is, always do what is right.

**Who has had the most influence on your life and how:** Mom & Dad. Because they are the reason I am who I am today.

**How do you uphold the Navy's core values:** Honor, Courage, and Commitment. I uphold them in everything I say and do because I realize there is a junior Sailor who is always watching and listening.

**What do you like about Japan:** Learning about its culture.

**What do you like about the Navy:** Being able to experience different places and meet people.

### USS Cowpens Junior Sailor of the Year

**Name:** Aneesah Nicon Adams

**Home Town:** Baltimore "GO RAVENS!" Maryland

**Naval Service:** 3 years.

**What is your philosophy on life and why:** " A Diva is not a Diva because she has not failed, but a Diva is a Diva because failure will not stop her! " This is my philosophy because failure should be used as a motivator and not as a deterrence.

**Who has had the most influence on your life and how:** : I cannot say that one single person has had the most influence on my life. I am influenced by many great people; I observe their strong qualities and try to use them as they apply to me.

**How do you uphold the Navy's core values:** Be honest, keep my word, and treat others the way that I would like to be treated.

**What do you like about Japan:** The best thing about Japan in my opinion is the restaurant Pepper Lunch. I love the concept behind this restaurant, inexpensive, delicious food with great service! And how can I forget the 100 Yen store? They have every and anything that you can imagine. I get all of my Scrub the Cow tools from the 100 Yen store!

8. **What do you like about the Navy:** I like the job security and benefits.



### USS Cowpens Blue Jacket Sailor of the Year

**Name:** Kelsey T. Gumm

**Home Town:** Franklin Wisconsin

**Naval Service:** 2.5 years

**What is your philosophy on life and why:** Live life to the Fullest

**Who has had the most influence on your life and how:** My Grandparents, My Parents, My Aunt Val.

**How do you uphold the Navy's core values:** I stay true to myself and my beliefs. I am honest and trustworthy. I am a hardworker. I help maintain a great level of readiness for our ship.

**What do you like about Japan:** I love the culture and the food.



## Operations Department

### OD Division

The exams are finally in and as always you know 1<sup>st</sup> Division had sailors that advanced to the next pay grade. **BM2 (SW) Perez** added another chevron to her uniform, taking on more responsibility as a second class petty officer. Also, **BM3 Charles Richter** is now Boatswains mate third class, congratulations to those two sailors as they embark on their new path as mentors as well as supervisors.

We also had an addition to our division. Welcome aboard **BMC (SW) Averett** who has been taking on the load since **BMC (SW) Cutler** has been one out of twenty people in the entire navy to be selected as a Limited Duty Officer in the medical field. This is **BMC (SW) Averett's** first tour overseas; his previous tour was in Mayport, Florida. There he was attached to the Afloat Training Group.

As of now, we're working hard during this SRA period tightening up our space to be in tip-top shape once we roll into our sea trials. We're preserving all spaces on the main weather deck- if you take a look you'll see that two of our refueling stations have already been preserved and look excellent and the others are in progress. We also have personnel working on the side of the ship preserving and painting. The anchor is also being preserved. *Cowpens* also won the Gold Anchor Award this year meaning that we've reached our quota of people to re-enlist onboard. So, be prepared to see gold anchors as you make your way to the ship in the near future.

You all know my favorite quote, "OD01, 1<sup>st</sup> Division second to none".

**By: SN Dargan**



*BMSN Robichaud and SN Hebert bust rust on the ship's forward anchor. It's just one of the many areas of the ship receiving a brand new coat of paint.*

### ON DIVISION

After a stressful underway period, the USS Cowpens is finally back in port. During this in port time we have the chance to fix things that are broken, conduct valuable training, and prepare for next years underway time. ON Division has been hard at work repainting the Pilot House and surrounding areas, getting it ready for an upcoming DITS inspection with the Captain and an underway period at the beginning of next year. GREAT JOB to **QM3 Burdick** and **QM3 (SW) Farr** for taking up our old decking and preparing it for new non-skid, they have been working extremely hard to get this done in the time that we are allowed.

ON Division was also lucky enough to get a new Quartermaster to add to our division at the beginning of the month. Welcome to ON Division and to the USS Cowpens, **QM2 (SW) Her Lee**. We look forward to working with you.

**By: QM3(SW) Kendra Rightsell**

### IS Division

IS Division has been hard at work during the Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA) period. At the beginning of the month, members from SPAWAR came to install an upgrade for NIAPS, allowing the ship to access Distance Support. Distance Support provides important links to receive help with equipment in need of repair, or websites that help in training across the board. We would also like to congratulate our two recent frockings. **IT2 Dustin Roskam** and **IT2 Woo** were both frocked to Second Class Petty Officer this cycle. Bravo Zulu to both of these fine sailors.

**By: ITC(SW) Spivey**



## Operation's Department (continued)



LTJG Elliott gets a feel for his new collar devices after receiving them from Captain Mosher in the Wardroom Dec 20.

Yokota and has kept a strong watchful eye not only on OT Division, but also the Cowpens Crew. Good Luck on the road ahead to each of you, we will miss you. As for the rest of OT, we would like to wish the crew of Cowpens a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

By: **CTT2(SW) Barrera**

### OT DIVISION

It's the holiday season and I'm sure the best gift earned this month was the Advancement results for OT Division. Congratulations go out to OT's newly advanced Petty Officers, **CTT2(SW) Barrera**, **CTR2 Alger**, **CTT3(SW) Woodcock**, **CTT3 Miller**, **CTR3 Montoya**, and to **LTJG Elliott** on his promotion to O-2. Also, **CTT1(SW) Ghunney's** devotion to MWR has once again lead to another successful Christmas party, which allowed for greater Cowpens camaraderie and of course, a great time. Another reason to celebrate is the addition of **CWO3 Grady**, who now serves as the ship's new Information Warfare Officer, welcome aboard, sir!

Though a joyful time and a month of smiles and gifts, OT was sad to say it's farewells to three of its own. **CTT2(SW) Clark** and **CTT2(SW) Paul**, who both recently departed Cowpens to their new command in Denver. And to **LTJG Jenkins**, who departs for DSRJ

### OI DIVISION

As this year comes to a close OI Division would like to reflect on all the great milestones we have accomplished throughout the year. Recently we've been blessed with numerous advancements to the next paygrade, the list includes **OS2 Jones**, **OS2 Longno**, **OS2 Small**, **OS3 Gumm**, **OS3 Allen**, and **OS3 (SW) Leveski** and **OS3 Garcia**, who are recent additions to OI from 1<sup>st</sup> Division. Also two recent transfers from OI Division were advanced to First Class Petty Officer. Congratulations go out to **OS1 (SW) Arruda** and **OS1 (SW) Hays**. Our very own **OS3 Gumm** was also selected as USS *Cowpens* Blue Jacket of the Year. Although not a surprise due to her contributions and work ethic, it was a tough tightly contested competition, and everyone she was up against earned the right to compete at that level. OI Division would also like to welcome **OS2 Darius Williams** from Great Lakes.

Although OI division has achieved numerous goals this year we look forward to the upcoming year to don the stylish ESWS (Enlisted Surface Warfare) Pin knowing that the qualification process will consume many hours of our unqualified personnel's day. We will travel to exotic places and learn more about our rating. We also look forward to training and welcoming our new personnel additions to the stellar watch standing teams in the Blue Light Lounge, otherwise known as Combat Information Center (CIC).

While in SRA (Ship's Restricted Availability) OI Division's main focus is **training, training, and then more training**. We will be sharpening our skills in the following areas PMK (Professional Military Knowledge), in-rate, lookout, and 3M (Material Maintenance Management).

By: **OS3 Kelsey Gumm and OS1 (SW) Latreceanalaquntta Dover**

*OS3 Garcia and OS3(SW) Leveski take time out to ensure OI Division's spaces are up to speed on cleanliness.*



## Naval History “A Date in Infamy”

It's early December, 1941. War rages across Europe and the Germans begin their march towards Moscow. Both Poland and France have fallen to the Blitzkrieg of the Nazis, and England staggers on the edge under constant bombardment from the Luftwaffe. In the Pacific, Japan is quickly conquering the islands of the South Pacific. The United States, hanging onto its isolationist policies has not entered the war, though it has frozen diplomatic relations with Japan over the invasion of South Indochina. This policy of neutrality is about to change. In late November a Japanese fleet consisting of 6 aircraft carriers, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, and 11 destroyers, commanded by Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, secretly occupies a point 275 miles north of Hawaii. At 0600 on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, Japanese aircraft take to the skies from these carriers and make their way towards the Hawaiian island of Oahu. At 0755 local time, while many on the island are still in their beds, the first Japanese planes approach the United States facilities surrounding Pearl Harbor. This force, the first of two waves, consists of 183 planes, which American RADAR operator's mistake for a flight of B-17s expected from the mainland. The ships at anchor in Pearl Harbor are lightly manned, the aircraft parked wing tip to wing

tip on the runways, both perfect targets for the Japanese fighters. Over the radio, “TORA, TORA, TORA!” is broadcast, the signal that surprise has been achieved and to commence with the attack.

Within the first few minutes of fighting, the light cruiser HELENA and minelayer OGLALA are crippled by explosions and the battleship OKLAHOMA is struck by five torpedoes and begins to capsize. At 0802, the battleship NEVADA downs two enemy torpedo bombers, but not before taking a torpedo hit on the port bow, which opens a large hole in her hull. The battleship CALIFORNIA receives two torpedo hits, and only the quick actions taken by Ensign Fain prevent her from capsizing like the OKLAHOMA. At 0810, an armor piercing bomb penetrates the forward magazine of the battleship ARIZONA, the resulting explosion causes a gigantic fireball, killing over one thousand Sailors instantly and sinking her within nine minutes. By 0815, the OKLAHOMA has completely capsized, trapping more than 30 men inside. Around 0830, there is a lull in fighting between the two waves of Japanese aircraft, and the battleship NEVADA manages to get underway in hopes of reaching open sea. However, before she can clear the harbor, she is caught by the second wave of the attack, and is beached at Hospital Point to prevent blocking the harbor. At 0930, the USS SHAW is rocked by explosions. By 1000 the attack is over, but the damage has been done.

(Right) Aerial photo taken of battleship row during the attack on Pearl Harbor. (Left) Destroyers Cassin and Downes lie demolished in the ship yard shared with the battleship Pennsylvania. The USS Pennsylvania would get underway ready for action on Dec 12th.



USS Arizona burning after forward weapons magazine exploded killing most of her crew. Photo from U.S. Naval archives.

The aftermath of the attack: eight of nine battleships sustain heavy damage, including the complete destruction of the ARIZONA and the capsizing of the OKLAHOMA. The CALIFORNIA and WEST VIRGINIA sink on an even keel in their berths, while the NEVADA lies beached and burning. Only the battleship PENNSYLVANIA survives the attack with minimal damage due to her position in a ship yard. Additionally, three cruisers, three destroyers, and a variety of other ships are severely damaged or sunk. More than 180 aircraft are destroyed, most of them while still on the ground. Casualties number more than 3,400 Americans, of which over 2,300 are deceased. By comparison, the Japanese lose 29 aircraft, 5 midget submarines, and less than 100 men.





## Naval History continued...

The attack propels the United States into World War II, not just in the Pacific, but European theater as well. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the United States Congress approves a Declaration of War against Japan with only one dissenting vote. Within a few days of the declaration, Germany and Italy both declare war on the United States. December 7<sup>th</sup> proved a devastating blow to the Pacific Fleet, though fortunately for the United States the three U.S. Pacific aircraft carriers were not in Pearl Harbor during the attack. The Navy's reliance on these carriers would usher in a new age in naval warfare, when air superiority would become the deciding factor in naval conflicts throughout the Pacific Theater. It was here that the aircraft carrier would take its place

in history, and replace the battleship as the "Titans of the Seas".

Sixty-five years ago this attack on the United States, and the high number of Americans killed and wounded, shook America to its foundations. Many could not believe that a disaster of this magnitude was possible. The Americans of 1941, our parents and grandparents, were living in uncertain times, with the prospect of war and even more casualties looming on the horizon. Undaunted however, they shouldered the burden of battling the evils which threatened them. As we remember the attack on Pearl Harbor, we must come to understand, that the price of



*USS Arizona's final resting place in shallow water after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Photo from U.S. Naval archives.*

freedom is high. We have a responsibility not only to each other, but to those who have gone before, to ensure that their sacrifices were not in vain.

(continued from page 1)

Kazuko Kasugai, the head sister in charge of the childrens home said, "The children wrote to Santa, and it was wonderful to see the joy on there faces." She even had a few words to pass on to the men and women onboard the USS Cowpens, "Thank-you so very much, and may you have a wonderful Christmas."

LT Jeff Jenkins, Command Chaplain noted, "USS Cowpens has a long term relationship with Misono Children's Home. While this is only my second Christmas COMREL at

here, USS Cowpens, the ship, has sponsored Misono for ten years. It was a joy to see the familiar faces and recognize the long-term impact of such projects."

Much of the credit for the project goes to SH1(SW) Paul Swank, who coordinated the collection of gifts and the party, and a special thanks goes out to everyone who volunteered their time to help brighten a child's Christmas.

**CTR1(SW/AW) Taylor**



*Clockwise:*

*LT. Bradley poses with a child from Misono Childrens Home.*

*FC3(SW) Silvers assists a child with bending a pipe cleaner into a reindeer, just one of the many activities set up by Cowpen's Sailors to encourage the children's creativity.*

*SH2(SW) Tillman helps a child with the finishing touches on his Christmas card.*



## Supply Department

### S1 DIVISION

S-1 division sends farewell and following seas to **SKC(SW) Archimedes Jusayan**. He is transferring to the mighty USS *Kitty Hawk* across the pier. After four years of dedication, S-1 division would like to thank him for all the knowledge and guidance he gave us. He will surely be missed in the Supply Department!

As we say good-bye to SKC, S-1 division would like to welcome **SK2(AW) John Robayo** from Mayport, Florida and **SKSR Dexter Lewis** from SK "A" school in NAS Meridian, Mississippi. Both of these individuals are highly motivated and ready to join our team.

As previously stated in our last month's article, S-1 Division is here to share our SRA experience with all of you. S-1's involvement in SRA is vital in providing logistical support. Our division has been busy coordinating the ship's logistic requirements during SRA period. Besides our normal supply operations, we have been ordering, expediting and receiving materials from different parts of the world. With teamwork and dedication, S-1 personnel have been very supportive of each other to meet the ship's requirements.

Some good news from S-1 division, **SK1(SW/AW) Sean Mahoney** just re-enlisted in the United States Navy for additional three years. Way to go, SK1! Our very own **SK2 (SW) Hoag** just joined the *Cowpens* Softball team. With his sportsmanship and athleticism, his addition will surely help the team. Lastly, the entire S-1 division wishes **SKSN Kim** the best in trying out for the Search and Rescue (SAR) team.

**By: SK2 (AW) John Robayo**

### S2 DIVISION

There are quite a few exciting things going on in S2 these days! First of all, I would like to welcome three new additions to the family. **CSC Eduardo Cuyos**, who comes to us from Navy Region Hawaii, brings all his years of experience and knowledge to the division. His number one goal is to give the crew the best food possible and to make them feel at home, even when we are far away from family and friends. We also welcome **CSSR Nitza Torres**, who is very eager to start her service here in Japan and is already showing off her skills by adding her creative decorations on the mess line. Finally, our newest, and littlest, addition is Miss Geraldine Paulo, a lovely daughter born to **CS1(SW) Paulo** and his wife. This is their first child and the division is eagerly awaiting pictures!

Well, we kicked off SRA in true COWPENS fashion with a fantastic picnic on the pier! Thank you to all who helped grill and prep. It was a huge success! I would also like to extend a thank-you to all who are taking advantage of using the base galley while we are in SRA. We have gotten nothing but compliments from the galley about the professionalism of our sailors. You should all be very proud at the way you are representing your ship.

Finally, S2 would like to wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday season.

**By: ENS Sarah McNamara**

### S-3 DIVISION

As the SRA kicked off for the COWPENS, the Ship's Servicemen are still busy providing services to our fellow shipmates. From the Barbershop, down to Laundry, up to the Ship's Store, and the around the corner to the Disbursing Office, you can still find us filling the vending machines, stocking the Ship's store, and handing out cash at the COWPENS' Federal Reserve Bank. Let's not forget the Post Office as sailors await the words, "Mail Call" which always feels like Christmas.

Since we are still open and the holidays are fast approaching, there are plenty of gifts to send home to loved ones such as COWPENS Frost mugs, Zippo's lighters, Cowpens Decal, Caps and much more. If you are in the area, please stop in. If you have gifts to mail off to loved ones, the Post Office is ready to receive it.

If you see **SH1(SW) Swank**, give him a big congratulation on a job well done as he received the Sailor of the Quarter Award.

**By: SHSN Kenneth**



*SK3 Franklin inspects the stock number on an item during an inventory conducted by S1 Division in the ship's storage spaces.*

## Engineering

### EE DIVISION

Seasons Greetings from the members of Electrical Division! Throughout this holiday season, *Cowpens* has been occupied by the Ship's Restricted Availability (SRA), a huge endeavor to improve the ship's construction and overall preservation. The Thundering Herd must tackle this tremendous challenge by coordinating jobs while ensuring the right safety precautions are in place. The size and scope of the ship's electrical tag-out program has increased significantly during this period, requiring many more tags and audits than usual. E-division has assisted both the crew and the Ship's Repair Force (comprised mostly of local workers) with over 300 equipment tag-outs, most of which involve pulling fuses or turning off breakers.

E-division has also begun preparing for its upcoming Division in the Spotlight inspection. Although all members of the division have increased their labors, **EMFA Christopher Garrison** was named *Cowpens'* Sailor of the Week during the award ceremony held on December 15 thanks to his diligent efforts to improve the condition of the ship's light lockers. Captain Mosher recognized Fireman Garrison's achievement by awarding him a Letter of Commendation, a Commanding Officer's coin, and a special name tag to wear throughout the following week.

E-Division would like to wish everyone happy holidays and hope that you'll join us in looking forward to a safe and happy new year.

**By: EM2(SW) Jonathan M. Clark**



*GSM3 Newton concentrates on cleaning one of the many spaces located in Engineering.*

### EA DIVISION

A Division is proud to have two promotions and a new Chief in the Ranks. **EN3 Lanon** and **EN3 Robinson**. Both have passed the Test with Flying colors and have proven themselves to be able to handle the responsibilities of a Third Class Petty Officer. We would also be pleased to have **ENC(SW) Depangher**.

In other news, A division is pushing hard through the SRA period with a lot of critical jobs done both by us and SRF. The A/Cs are very important, it is much hotter on the ship while we upgrade them. Another one would be the cleaning and inspecting of the evaporators. A division is in charge of many jobs and new equipment to help with the ships capability.

**By: EN3 Derek Robinson**

### MP DIVISION

Whether the ship is underway or in home port, MP division is always active and working hard. Due to the SRA, this past month has been especially busy with members of MP hanging tags for nearly 450 Tag-Out Record Sheets, or TORS, on every major piece of equipment onboard. To ensure that no discrepancies exist, we have also been supervising a very grueling and time-consuming tag-out audit twice a week. In addition to hanging tags, we work on space preservation and PMS while supporting 25% of the division in school each week.

Teamwork helps us to excel together as a division. An achievement for one is an achievement for all, and we congratulate the newly frocked members of MP division: **GSM3 Phan Nguyen**, **GSM3 Stephen Hobbs**, **GSM2(SW) John McCord**, **GSM2(SW) Michael Miller**, and **GSE1(SW) Gene Yawn**. Also, fair winds and following seas go to **GSM2 Miller** and **GSE2(SW) Fai Wong**. We wish them the best of luck in their next commands.

**By: GSM2(SW) Steven Colburn**



## Engineering (continued)

### ER DIVISION

Welcome aboard the R-Train!  
Grab your gear and let's go for a ride!

FIRST STOP: Flight Deck - Repair Division would like to congratulate 2 new frockees, **DC2(SW) Ryan Haisley**, and **DC3 Thomas Sanchez**. Way to go!

NEXT STOP: Yokosuka Naval Hospital - Repair Division would like to welcome aboard Tyler Baxley, our newest arrival, born to proud parents **DC2 Scott and Ashley Baxley**.

SHORT STOP AT: Aft IC/Gyro - BRAVO ZULU to **DC3 Sanchez** for his heroic effort in reporting and responding to flooding in AFT IC, preventing the space from being flooded out. With all of the work going on during the availability, it's good to know that R Division is on the watch!

NEXT STOP: Machine Shop - Repair Division would like to acknowledge **HTFN Dutra**, who has been Repair Division's star pupil for the month. Congrats to HTFN Dutra for being nominated for Engineering Department Blue Jacket of the Quarter, and Honorable Mention as COWPENS' BJOQ. HTFN Dutra is Repair Division's leading fireman, and has been the mainstay for all welding and plumbing jobs. He also teaches DC Indoc and serves as On-Scene Leader for his duty section's Inport Emergency Team.

NEXT STOP: ER09 - Congrats to **DC1 Senior Lewis**, one of Engineering Department's nominees for USS COWPENS Senior Sailor of the Year. DC1 Lewis needs no introduction - he lets his work speak for itself through the way he takes care of his subordinates and drives sailors to work together as a team, which is what really makes things "go" aboard the MOO.



*DCFN Martinez focuses on the job at hand as he fabricates a new bracket for a trouble call.*

NEXT STOP: Quarterdeck - R Div would also like welcome our humble newsletter reporter, **DCFN Pugh**, as well as **DC3(SW) Merchen**, who both checked aboard recently.

Despite all of the work going on around the ship and the hectic schedule, Repair Division has been going strong with DC training, and the more we continue to train, the more successful the MOO will continue to be. Thanks for riding the R-TRAIN — LET'S KEEP MOOOOVING!

**By: DCFN Darlanetta Pugh**

## Executive Department

### NX DIVISION

I am the Navy Career Counselor on board USS COWPENS, the best Navy Ship in Yokosuka, Japan. I checked on board in February 2006. At that time, I did not realize the demanding nature of Forward-Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF).



Before arriving in Japan, I'd heard about the challenges here but never experienced or imagined the numerous hurdles. Despite our limitations, hard work, and long days, the USS COWPENS still achieved the 2006 "Golden Anchor Award".

This coveted award is given to any command that achieves above average standard of retention. This means that over the last year, the amount of enlisted Sailors who decided to "stay Navy" and reenlist for a term of two to six

years exceeded the average retention across the entire fleet.

Winning the Golden Anchor Award, especially here in Yokosuka, is an outstanding accomplishment and has been one of my primary goals as the Command Career Counselor. Despite some of the negative aspects we have dealt with, I am proud to be the Command Career Counselor on board working with the finest Sailors in the Navy.

I commend everyone aboard the USS COWPENS for our success. Because of you, I fulfilled my personal goal, as well as, enabling the USS COWPENS the honor of winning the Golden Anchor Award.

*YN1(SW) Gregory Cazemier shakes hands with CAPT Terry Mosher on the day of his re-enlistment on the bridge of the USS Cowpens.*

**By: NC1 Maria L. Macaluso**

## Combat Systems Department

### CE DIVISION

Frequent residents of the Fleet Rec Third Deck will be happy to find out about one of the ship's latest additions, wi-fi hotspots! The *Cowpens* has installed three hotspots, one for the Mess Decks, one of the Chief's Mess, and one for the Wardroom, featuring a connection speed of 36 MBPS. Gamers, delight in this news! Music aficionados, rest easy that you can now download music right here at the ship (all legally, of course.)

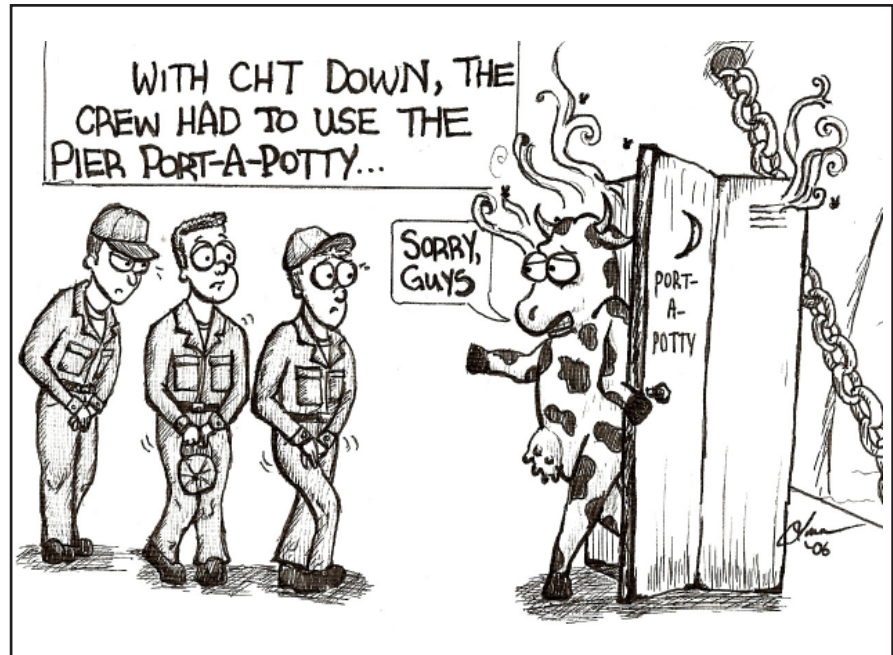
Among the other projects CE is undertaking this yard period for the good of the crew is the addition of a new briefing room in Sonar 1. This briefing room will come more closely resemble a movie theatre fitted for a warship, with fifteen theatre style seats, a high definition projector and screen, four surround sound speakers, and a 500 W subwoofer. The project is moving right along, with progress being made each day to ensure that this room is not only a multimedia center of information dissemination, but also secure enough to weather heavy seas.

Until next month, stay safe, remember to duck even lower to account for the extra height of your hardhat!

**By: IC2 John Travis**



### Out to Pasture by LT Lara Bollinger



### CF DIVISION

With the underway schedule done for now, CF Division continues to push forward as the Ship's Restricted Availability is in full swing. For the next several months the Japanese Ship Repair Facility will be working with our sailors to get some much-needed yardwork done. **FC1(SW) Nathan Hedden, FC2(SW) Jeremy Tucker, and FC2(SW) Kenny Stowe** are working diligently with SRF to ensure that each and every job is documented and completed correctly. They will be working with SRF for the duration of this availability. **FC1(SW) Rogelio Ramirez** is working in conjunction with them as our Tag-Out supervisor; his job being to ensure that every job has the correct items isolated to ensure nobody gets hurt.

*FC2 Smith concentrates on the job at hand as he inspects his work on a CIWS gun barrel.*

December also brings a new and revitalized Command Fitness program to life. **FCC(SW) Michael Garcia** has put together an outstanding regimen of exercise to help the crew get in shape during this extended in-port period. He's kept things interesting by integrating popular sports and activities; it's not just running! During one said event, CF division dominated CE, our ET brethren in the department, in a thrilling game of Dodgeball.

Finally, the long-awaited advancement results have been posted. Advancement for E-4 through E-6 is held on a semiannual basis and consists of a lengthy exam. This cycle we are proud to announce CF's selectees: **FC1(SW) Jeremy Tucker, FC1(SW) Joeseeph Gamboa, FC1(SW) Robert Kline, FC2 James Ahrens, and FC2(SW) Joy Nakakihara**. Congratulate to these sailors on a job well done!

**By: FC1(SW) Day**

## Weapons Department



*STGSN Tomlin begins the prep work required to ensure CA Division's spaces are ready to be painted. Taping of electrical boxes, covering overheads, cleaning the bulkheads and decks are all just part of the many preparations required to ensure a space is ready to be painted.*

### CA DIVISION

Another eventful month is quickly passing by. The Ship's Restricted Availability is in full swing. A lot of important jobs are being completed to ensure our ship is ready to protect and serve our great nation. However, it is the holiday season, so the ship had a wonderful Christmas party for the crew this month. There was great food, music, dancing and some really terrific prizes awarded to some really lucky crew members.

CA Division would like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Michael Leet. They were blessed with twin boys born November 27<sup>th</sup>.

To all, this is the time to spend with the people you care about. CA Division would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

**By: STG3 Samuel Courtney**

### CG DIVISION

December has been a very good month for CG division. Three of our sailors were advanced, many in our division took some well deserved time off and we continue to raise the bar with our quality of work.

**GM3 Shawn Branum, GM2 Aaron Black, and FC2 (SW) Jeffery Larson** all were frocked this month. This came shortly after both Petty Officer Larson and Petty Officer Black assumed positions of Work Center Supervisor for two of our work centers.

The ships schedule allowed for many in our division to take some well deserved leave. **FCC (SW) Jason McGlasson** was able to go home to Oklahoma for the entire month of December to see his family who he hasn't seen since his arrival to Cowpens in February.

**GMSN Branum**, while not spending his leave stateside, was able to spend some quality time with his little brother who flew out to Japan to spend Christmas.

Meanwhile back on the ship CG still has a lot of work to do during the Ships Restricted Availability (SRA). While most of the work involves improving the material condition of CG's 33 spaces, we have also been working hard with various technical representatives to improve the condition of our many pieces of equipment. We have also lent several people, including **FCC (SW) Johnny Field, FC2 (SW) Gabrielle Salazar, and GMSN William Rivera**, to the ships "Tiger" team to work hard on improving many of the ships common spaces. **FC2 (SW) Randy Sears** has also been working hard as one the ships representatives working with Ships Repair Facility (SRF) to ensure all jobs not being accomplished by ships force are going smoothly.

**By: GM1(SW/AW) Troy**

### CM DIVISION

Welcome aboard **GMC(SW) Haynes**, who is coming to us from the USS Shoup and **FCC(SW) Vandeneynde**, who comes to us from ATG Hawaii. Congratulations to **FC2 Dodd** and his wife. They now have a brand new addition to the family, a beautiful baby BOY!

A Bravo Zulu goes out to CM Division's 100% advancement, four personnel took the exam and all four advanced to the next pay grade. The frocking ceremony was held December 8<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations also go out to **FC1(SW) Ryan** who reenlisted December 15<sup>th</sup>.

From CM division....Happy Holidays!

**By: FC3(SW) Yajaida Pacheco**